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## BOOK NOTICES.

LA REVUE PHILOSOPHIQUE DE LA FRANCE ET DE L'ÉTRANGER. Paraissant tous les mois ; dirigée par TH. RIBOT.

[The contents of the numbers of Vols. XIII and XIV were noticed in our July number, 1883. The contents of Vols. I to VII will be found in *Jour. Spec. Phil.*, x, p. 109, and xiii, p. 44.—ED.]

"La Revue Philosophique," for July, 1879 (Vol. VIII), contains "The Philosophy of Idea-Forces" (*idées-forces*) by A. Fouillée, Part I. A somewhat satirical view is taken of philosophers, and their methods are discussed in a lively manner, in the above article, which aims to be logical, and is certainly spirited and full of illustration.

"The Critical History of Jules César Vanini," by A. Baudouin. A personal history, sketched in an artless, entertaining style, precedes this critique. As a philosopher, we are told Vanini had strange opinions, hardly to be called theories, and did not pretend to be an original genius. He closely studied nature, and an eventful life did not disturb the simplicity of his order of thought.

"Error and Selection," Part I, by F. Paulhan. "The importance of the rôle performed by the unconscious operations of the brain is the great obstacle which is opposed to the complete separation of psychology and physiology." The article defines the exactness of impressions received under various conditions, and how to measure what is positive and true, and absolute consciousness.

"Whewell's Theory of Science and Induction," by L. Liard, is treated with evident scientific knowledge.

The books examined are: "Observations and Reflections on the Development of Intelligence and Language with Children," by E. Egger (Fr.); "Education as a Science," Bain (Eng.); "History of Philosophy," Fr. Harms; "Consciousness considered as a Limit of Natural Knowledge," Hermann Siebeck; "Musical Pleasure," H. Berg; "Study on Cerebral Operations and on the Isolated Rôle of each Hemisphere in the Phenomena of Mental Pathology," by Dr. J. Luys.

"La Revue Philosophique" for August, 1879, contains:

1. "The Masters of Kant—II. Newton," by D. Nolen. The article opens with a sketch of Kant from the time he left Königsberg, in the vicinity of which he was a preceptor for ten years, consecrating his efforts almost wholly upon the problems of mechanical physics. Kant felt the necessity of a philosophic revolution, and made a vow to wholly devote himself to it, and the earnestness with which he insisted on following a good method proves that of Newton, his master. He began by being the interpreter and advocate of Newton's physics, against the opposition of the Cartesians and the disciples of Leibnitz. M. Nolen here explains the principles of Newton, their effect upon Kant, and the opposition of other believers whose beliefs he examines. From the method of Newton Kant created one truer and more comprehensive, outlined by M. Nolen, who asserts that it was not enough for Kant to maintain his master's principles, but he also wished to strengthen and extend them by new applications; he also states that, of all the works of Kant, that entitled "The General History of Nature and the Theory of the Heavens, or an Essay on the Structure and Mechanical Origin of the System of the Universe, after the

*Principles of Newton, 1755*," best shows the power and originality of his mathematical genius, and the inspiration of Newton. Newton explained the actual state and preservation of our planetary system; he did not dare scrutinize the origin of our world or extend his theory to the universe. The system of Newton is not fully explained in this article, other than to compare him with Kant, or to show the development of the latter through a study of Newton.

2. "The Dualism of Stuart Mill," by L. Carrau. If it were necessary to prove that the human mind cannot wholly lose its interest in problems relative to the existence of a first cause or creative principle, it would suffice to invoke the example of Stuart Mill. No one adhered more than he to the experimental method; he was a strict positivist, refusing to follow August Comte in his chimerical mysticism, and yet the question of God was his last thought; he was not on account of this an unbeliever, but he believed that the religious problem could be put scientifically. In analyzing Stuart Mill's dualism, M. Carrau undertakes to question if some of the proofs rejected by the English thinker have not more value than he attributes to them, and if, without disregarding the conditions of scientific induction, we cannot learn more about divinity than he affirms about it. He refers to the influence of Bentham, and states that the effort of Stuart Mill to establish his dualism bears on the argument called cosmologic, which shows that every phenomenon has a cause, since it is a change determined by an antecedent. In M. Carrau's discussion on the existence of God as a cause of the universe, he brings up the atomistic theory of Thomson, and questions the existence of ether as eternal and uncreated, believing that Mill's dualism would gain nothing by proving this, since the fluidity of ether could not resist an all-powerful finger in tracing the harmonious plan of the Cosmos. After analyzing the various points of Stuart Mill's theories, and comparing them with other arguments on the same subjects, M. Carrau concludes that Stuart Mill's criticisms do not seriously compromise the cosmologic argument, and that they have not shaken the philosophic foundation of the belief in a sovereign thought, the first cause of the world, and the human mind.

"The Conclusion of the Critical History of Jules César Vanini," by A. Baudouin, sketches Vanini after his arrival in Paris. "Error and Selection," by F. Paulhan, is continued.

The books examined are: "Studies in Theology and Philosophy," by J. F. Astié (Fr.). The analysis of the works of Professor Hausrath, of Heidelberg, on "The Century of Jesus Christ," is especially commended among these studies. M. Astié best deserves the title of "Independent" of all this class of theologians, says his critic Maurice Vernes. "History of Modern Philosophy," Windelband (Ger.). The first volume treats of the Renaissance to the time of Kant. "On the Theory of Judgment," by Goetz Martius, a possible disciple of Herbert Spencer, according to the critic A. Burdeau. "The Antitheses between the Middle and Modern Ages in the History of Philosophy," by Sebastiano Turbiglio (Ital.), a work reviewed in a critical spirit by A. Espinas.

"La Revue Philosophique" for September, 1879, contains:

1. "Religious Philosophy and Neo-Hegelianism," by E. de Hartmann. A treatise chiefly on Liberal Protestantism, which, if it wishes to seek a more positive basis, says the author, must sacrifice a part of its critical radicalism, or seek to approach orthodoxy at the expense of its own principles, or it should remain faithful to these, and try to give a more solid basis to the religious doctrine, while obeying the exigencies of the critical conscience. The author pursues a very interesting discussion on the various forms of religion, and speaks of the doctrines of Pfleiderer in particular. "Speculative Protestantism," says

Hartmann, "as a Christian sect now belongs to a dead past; as a religious speculative philosophy, on the contrary, it is the germ of a new pantheistic religion of the future, utilizing the results of speculative philosophy to satisfy, as far as possible, the religious want." "The Critical History of Vanini," by A. Baudouin, is continued, and "Error and Selection," by F. Paulhan, concluded.

Books examined are: "Metaphysics considered as a Science," by Alaux; "The Genesis of Bayle's 'Erudit' Scepticism," by A. Deschamps; "Studies on the Theory of Evolution," by L. Carrau.

The October number of "*La Revue Philosophique*," 1879, contains: "Sleep and Dreams," by J. Delbœuf. This article is a critique on several works on the above subject. The author prefaces his criticism by specifying the various kinds of dreams, and remarks that the moral nature often lies dormant in the dreamer, the most refined person often being a subject to the basest passions in his dream-existence. He studies the subject from a medical, philosophical, and psychological standpoint, and, besides numerous interesting examples of the peculiarity of dreams, makes a very interesting study and points out its usefulness.

2. "On the Rôle and Legitimacy of Geometric Intuition," by Boussinesq. The author treats this subject under the following heads: I. The defiance which geometric intuition inspires among some partisans of the non-Euclid doctrines. II. This defiance is not justified, for the evidence or geometric intuition cannot, as they suppose, be a product of external observation. III. Whatever opinion one may have about its origin, geometric intuition none the less remains the most perfect of our intellectual faculties, and the best defined in its object. IV. Without intuition all reasoning would become impossible in geometry, and probably even in the other branches of mathematics. V. Reflections on the idea of space. VI. Of the distinction of absolute and relative movements.

3. "Movements and their Psychological Importance," by Th. Ribot. The author, after stating that not until within twenty years has the rôle of movements in the formation of states of consciousness begun to seriously attract attention, describes the psychical life as the ensemble of nervous phenomena with which it is united, and forming a circuit which parts from the exterior world to return to it. This circuit comprises, in the whole, three periods: one of transmission from the outside to the center, one of elaboration in the centers, and one of transmission from the center to the outside. This last phase, that of reaction, has been ignored by ancient psychologists. In the organism, they have considered only the sensitive side and have neglected that of motion. According to them, the body, in motion, is to the soul a stranger or servant. An inadmissible thesis: facts prove, on the contrary, that it is an indispensable co-operator. The subject is treated in a practical, interesting manner, and with great breadth.

The critique on Vanini, by Baudouin, is concluded.

The books examined are:

"Contemporary English Morals," by Guyau; "Philosophical Works," by Sophie Germain; "J. J. Rousseau judged by the Genevese of To-day" (Fr.); "Psychical Motion and Consciousness," by Herzen (Ital.).

"Mind," a quarterly review, July, 1879, and "The Journal of Speculative Philosophy," January, April, July, receive full and favorable notices of an able list of articles.

"*La Revue Philosophique*" for November, 1879, contains "The Pretended Scepticism of Hume," by G. Compayré. According to this author, the philosophic influence of Hume is increasing; it is beginning to be recognized that his philosophy is not made of negations only, but contains a particular and original dogmatism which must not be con-

founded with vulgar scepticism; it is not only an accident and a curiosity in the history of thought, but an essential element. This author specifies the various works of Hume, and regards his "Treatise on Human Nature" as the most dogmatic; while Hume himself thought "An Inquiry concerning the Principles of Morals" his best work, which opinion neither posterity nor his contemporaries held; and, with all its good sense and wisdom, his work on morals too closely resembles that of Professor Hutchesson and Bishop Butler to possess genuine originality, says M. Compayré, whose critique is concise as it is comprehensive, and written in a spirit of fairness.

2. "A Theory of Mathematical Knowledge," by M. O. Schmitz-Dumont, reviewed by P. Tannery, is concluded, with further demonstrations of a sound, clear character.

3. "Sleep and Dreams—II. Their Relations with the Theory of Certainty"—by J. Delbœuf, gives many interesting facts, and the author's theories are convincing. He has also treated this popular subject in a manner comprehensible to all.

Books examined are:

"Greek and Contemporary Sophists," by Funck Brentano; "The Revolutions of Justice," by H. Brocher de la Fléchère; "Lessons of Positive Politics," by Lastarria (Fr.); "History of Philosophical Terminology," Eucken (Germ.); "The Morals of Positivists," Ardigo (Ital.), Mélusine, Gaidoz and Rolland.

The contents of "La Revue Philosophique" for December, 1879, are: "The Origin of Religions," by Guyau; a discussion of a work by Max Müller, whose doctrine differs from that of Herbert Spencer. The subject of Max Müller's work is the development of religious thought with the Hindoos. His pages are filled with beautiful passages, and show the spirit of Matthew Arnold, Strauss, and Renan.

2. "On the Education of the Esthetic Sense in the Little Child," by B. Perez. Children very early show an eye for the beautiful equal to the musical sense; the taste for play and the dramatic sense manifesting itself later. The author states the various ages in which certain objects attract the attention of children, and explains the causes of their preference; in his belief, the esthetic taste of the child can also receive a happy influence if his attempts at imitation or artistic creation are wisely guided. The extent of the poetic faculties in a child are sufficiently great to regard him as a precocious artist, provided he is early taught by imitation, when he is already capable of following a course in painting and architecture. The musical instinct, he believes, is innate in the young; a child is born a musician, or will become one if he hears music at an impressionable age. No one, he says, is unmusical for lack of ear, but lack of practice. In the spoken voice there is a true or false timbre, a harmony of sounds with the thoughts and sentiments, a music of the soul, which is one of the great secrets of eloquence. This very interesting article analyzes the love of play, the dramatic instinct, and love of the marvelous, and, through a keen knowledge of a child's capacity, inherited tendencies, and disposition, affords the best instruction as to the education of children.

3. "On the Influence and Elements of Ideas," by Dr. Ch. Richet. "All is not said," observes this author, "when the influence of the nerves and nervous centres upon movement has been explained, for the muscles have sensitive nerves, so that each contraction provokes a nervous excitement which reaches the centres and produces either a reflex movement, a conscious or unconscious sensation." He further discusses voluntary and involuntary movement, and how the course of our ideas and sentiments is affected by them.

4. "Double Personality in Dreams," by J. Delbœuf, describes the consciousness of self in dreams, witnessing as it were the part which imagination makes self play.

5. The Manuscripts of Sophie Germain—New Documents—by C. Henry. A collection interesting to geometricians, containing a number of letters.

Books examined are:

"The Study of Psychology," by G. H. Lewes; "Spiritualism," by Wundt; "So-called Spiritualism," Ulrici; "History of Materialism," by Lange, vol. ii.

VIRGINIA CHAMPLIN.

**LIBRARY OF ABORIGINAL AMERICAN LITERATURE.** In 1882 Dr. Brinton, editor of the "Medical and Surgical Reporter" of Philadelphia, and for a long time, well known here and abroad for his valuable contributions to the ethnology of the aborigines of America, and especially for his books, "The Myths of the New World" and "The Religious Sentiment," issued a circular announcing the publication of a series of works under the general title here given. We quote from the circular:

"Each of these works will be printed in the original tongue, with an English translation and notes. Every work admitted to the series will be the production of a native, and each will have some intrinsic importance, either historical or ethnological, in addition to its value as a linguistic monument. Most of them will be from unpublished manuscripts, and every effort will be made to secure purity of text and competent editorship.

"The works contemplated in the series are such as will be indispensable to the future student of American archæology, ethnology, or linguistics. A provisional list is added to this circular. They will be printed from type, in medium octavo, on heavy paper, and but *very few copies will be struck off beyond the number subscribed for.*"

The following are some of the works which it was proposed to issue in this series. Four, including the first and fourth with two others, have already appeared (1884):

No. I. "The Chronicles of the Mayas," edited by D. G. Brinton, M. D. This volume will contain five brief chronicles in the Maya language of Yucatan, written shortly after the conquest, and carrying the history of that people back many centuries. Four of these have never been published, nor even translated into any European tongue. Each will be given in the original, with a literal translation and grammatical and historical notes. To these will be added a history of the conquest, written in his native tongue by a Maya chief, in 1562. This also is from an unpublished manuscript. The texts will be preceded by an introduction on the history of the Mayas; their language, calendar, numeral system, etc.; and a vocabulary will be added at the close.

No. II. "Central American Calendars." A number of native calendars and "wheels," used by the Mayas, Kiches, Cakchiquels, and neighboring tribes, in reckoning time and forecasting the future, will be published for the first time, with explanations. From lack of sufficient material, this important point in American archæology has remained extremely obscure. The collection which it is intended to embrace in this volume is unquestionably unique of its kind.

No. III. "The Annals of Quauhtitlan." The original Aztec text, with a new translation. This is also known as the "Codex Chimalpopoca." It is one of the most curious and valuable documents in Mexican archæology.

No. IV. "The National Legend of the Creeks," edited by Albert S. Gatschet. Mr. Gatschet will present: (1) The original German account, written in 1735, by which this legend has been transmitted; (2) Its English translation; (3) Its retranslation into the Creek language, in which it was originally delivered, by an educated native; (4) Its translation into the Hitchiti, a dialect cognate to the Creek; (5) Glossaries and ethnographic notes.

No. V. "The Chronicles of the Cakchiquels." These chronicles are the celebrated "Memorial de Tecpan Atitlan" so often quoted by the late Abbé Brasseur de Bourbourg. They are invaluable for the ancient history and mythology of Guatemalan nations, and are of undoubted authenticity and antiquity.

Other works of equal interest will be added, if the series proves acceptable to scholars. The above order of issue is uncertain.